United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Planting or Re-planting Crops after Tennessee's Flood

Damage to Tennessee's agricultural lands due to the May 1 flooding has been extensive. As farms dry out, producers have many tough decisions to make about this year's crops. University of Tennessee Extension specialists provide insights on farmers' options for planting or re-planting Tennessee's agronomic crops.

Wheat: According to Dr. Chris Main, UT Extension Cotton and Small Grains Specialist, if floodwaters moved off your wheat crop by Monday, May 3, the wheat should survive and mature normally. If the flood lasted 4 or more days there is potential for crop loss. As water saturates the soil it replaces oxygen in the soil and allows conditions to become anaerobic. This condition will cause root tissue to die leading to lodged wheat.

So should you terminate your wheat to get a jumpstart on planting other crops? According to Dr. Main, by the time the soil dries out enough to do any fieldwork, you should be able to tell if the wheat is going to die. Other than isolated low spots in wheat fields, Dr. Main believes most water moved off the crop quickly enough to avoid damage. The exception would be any fields that were still flooded on Wednesday, May 5. CAUTION: Wheat that was flooded can and most likely will have debris (trash, stumps, trees, etc.) that can cause costly damage to harvest equipment.

Cotton: With a good forecast, many areas will be ready for cotton planting soon. Although Dr. Main says cotton planting may be limited in river and creek bottoms due to flooding. April planted acres need to be checked for stand quality and replant decisions should be made quickly. If a stand is questionable, replant quickly. This replanted cotton will likely catch and surpass the performance of the stunted cotton that is currently in the field. We have an excellent replant decision guide that can be found at our UTCrops.com web site. Here's a direct link to the publication: http://www.utextension.utk.edu/fieldCrops/cotton/VarietyTestingData/W073.pdf.

Cotton seed companies have very robust re-plant policies to aid farmers in the event a re-plant is needed. There are many details to companies' plans, and the starting resource for all re-plant needs should begin at the retail outlet where you purchased the seed. However, a short synopsis of each company's policies can be found in the IPM Newsletter at http://www.utextension.utk.edu/fieldCrops/cotton/cotton_insects/newsletters/2010/IPM5-2010.pdf.

Corn: Corn loss estimates are still coming in on river bottom fields as the water continues to rise, and there is cleanup to do in those bottom fields that have drained off, but most upland fields look good except for some washing on hillsides and wet low spots. According to Dr. Angela McClure, UT Extension Corn and Soybean Specialist, as long as the corn was out of the ground, stands shouldn't be badly impacted as long as soil is able to drain. Where corn had not emerged, Dr. McClure says producers should check fields over the next few days. Since we are into early May, McClure says a uniform corn stand of 24,000 plants per acre would definitely be a keeper. A lesser stand will see reduced yield potential.

Flooded river bottoms planted to corn will be wet for two or more weeks. Crop insurance requirements may dictate how much corn is replanted this year. **May 20th is the cutoff for full coverage insurance and June 15th is the late planting cutoff that qualifies for reduced insurance coverage.**

Soybeans: Only a small percentage of soybean acres were planted prior to the flood. According to Dr. McClure, emerged soybeans may be more tolerant to short term flooding than corn. She says the target population for keeping a soybean field is uniform stand of 100,000 plants per acre or better for a Group 4 bean. More detailed information on all crop issues can be found at UTCrops.com or in the weekly University of Tennessee IPM Newsletter. You can view the http://www.utextension.utk.edu/fieldCrops/cotton/cotton_insects/newsletters/2010/IPM5-2010.pdf. All specialists cited in the article are located at the West Tennessee Ag Research and Education Center in Jackson. You can contact them by phone by dialing 731-425-4729.

University of Tennessee and Tennessee State University are members of the nationwide extension network that provides research-based information and news you can use. Find flood recovery information online at http://www.extension.org/disasters. Follow the link under resource areas for floods. Additional information is available from the Louisiana State University Ag Center: http://www.lsuagcenter.com/ click on the "community" topics link for disaster and recovery assistance. **Source**: http://www.agriculture.utk.edu/news/releases/2010/10-05-flood12.html.

Wheat Crop Expected To Be Down 42 Percent

The effects of torrential rains, flooding, and reduced seeding last fall are expected to lead to a sharp reduction to Tennessee's 2010 wheat crop. Tennessee's winter wheat production is projected to total 10.1 million bushels, down 42 percent from a year ago according to a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office, around May 1. The state's average yield is expected to be 56.0 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from a year earlier. Tennessee farmers seeded 290,000 acres last fall, down 33 percent from the previous year. Wheat producers expect to harvest 180,000 acres for grain, 160,000 less than a year ago. The remaining 110,000 acres were used as a cover crop, will be harvested for hay or silage, or will be abandoned due to flooding. By the week ending May 9, nearly three-fourths of the State's acreage had headed, slightly behind the normal pace. The crop was rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

United States: Production is forecast at 1.46 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2009. Based on May 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 45.9 bushels per acre, up 1.7 bushels from the previous year. Expected grain area totals 31.8 million acres, down 8 percent from last year. As of May 2, sixty-eight percent of the United States winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, 21 points above the same week in 2009, and heading had reached 27 percent in the 18 major producing States, 4 percentage points behind the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., May 1, 2010 with Comparisons[1]

	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
State	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	390	170	44.0	52.0	17,160	8,840
Georgia	250	130	42.0	48.0	10,500	6,240
Kentucky	390	300	57.0	65.0	22,230	19,500
Mississippi	165	130	50.0	50.0	8,250	6,500
Missouri	730	310	47.0	46.0	34,310	14,260
North Carolina	600	400	49.0	46.0	29,400	18,400
TENNESSEE	**340**	**180**	**51.0**	**56.0**	**17,340**	**10,080**
Virginia	210	175	58.0	63.0	12,180	11,025
United States	34,485	31,786	44.2	45.9	1,522,718	1,458,350

[1] 2010 forecast, 2009 final.

State Hay Supplies up From 2009

Tennessee: Hay stocks on Tennessee farms totaled 678,000 tons on May 1, up 23 percent from a year earlier. A wet fall caused many farmers to lose their late cuttings. Fortunately, enough had already been harvested to replenish stocks. Hay supplies were adequate to support livestock throughout the winter. Currently, hay stocks are rated in short supply in a few areas but mostly adequate elsewhere. Disappearance of hay, which is hay fed, sold or wasted, from December 1, 2009 - May 1, 2010, totaled 2.54 million tons.

United States: All hay stored on farms May 1, 2010 totaled 20.9 million tons, down 5 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2009-May 1, 2010 totaled 86.3 million tons, compared with 81.6 million tons for the same period a year ago. Compared with last year, hay stocks increased in the Tennessee Valley, Ohio Valley, Rocky Mountains, and much of the Southwest. Stock increases in these areas were largely attributed to improved spring pasture conditions and in many cases, higher 2009 hay production.

All Tobacco: Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value, Tennessee, 2000-2009

Crop Year	Area Harvested	Yield	Production	Price Per Pound	Value of Production
	Acres	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
2000	46,020	2,085	95,958	2.014	193,288
2001	39,690	2,189	86,893	2.016	175,163
2002	34,900	2,044	71,331	2.066	147,383
2003	31,140	2,108	65,632	2.107	138,290
2004	30,260	2,161	65,381	2.138	139,762
2005	22,950	2,251	51,670	1.872	96,739
2006	19,800	2,482	49,135	1.893	93,009
2007	19,980	1,934	38,636	1.962	75,823
2008	21,800	2,403	52,380	2.109	110,448
2009	21,600	2,313	49,960	2.096	104,735

Cotton: Acreage, Yield, Production, and Ginnings, Tennessee, 2000-2009

Crop Year	Acreage		Yield	Production		Ginnings[2]
	Planted	Harvested		Lint[1]	Seed	
	1,000 Acres		Pounds Lint	1,000 bales	1,000 Tons	1,000 Bales
2000	570	565	603	710	289	708.5
2001	620	615	763	978	351	973.1
2002	565	530	741	818	291	813.6
2003	560	530	806	890	311	878.8
2004	530	525	900	984	336	985.3
2005	640	635	848	1,122	386	1,111.1
2006	700	695	945	1,368	441	1,346.4
2007	515	510	565	600	203	602.1
2008	285	280	909	530	169	533.0
2009	300	280	843	492	158	497.7

[1] Production in 480 lb. weight bales. [2] Equivalent 480 lb. net weight bales, not adjusted for cross-state movement.

Hired Workers Up 10 Percent, Wage Rates Down Fractionally From a Year Ago

There were 997,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 2010, up 10 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 737,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 260,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $10.83 per hour during the April 2010 reference week, down 1 cent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $10.04 per hour, up 5 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned $10.31 per hour compared with $10.25 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $10.13 per hour, was up 6 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.8 for hired workers during the survey week, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States and United States, During April 2009 & 2010

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers [1]		Eggs per 100 for All Layers [1]	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	1,358	1,338	9,324	9,855	1,898	1,847
Arkansas	3,422	3,252	12,467	12,283	1,957	1,978
Georgia	9,042	8,609	17,779	17,492	2,081	2,110
North Carolina	5,533	6,008	12,784	13,586	2,042	1,987
All Other States[2]	259,074	257,426	287,816	286,730	2,231	2,261
United States	278,429	276,633	340,170	339,946	2,197	2,220

[1] Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. [2] Tennessee is included in all other states total.

Livestock Slaughter[1]: Tennessee & United States, April 2009 & 2010

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Tennessee						
Cattle	3.1	4.0	2,673	3,158	877	809
Calves	0.1	[3]	39	[3]	475	[3]
Hogs	46.5	46.6	21,195	21,445	458	461
Sheep & lambs	1.1	0.9	74	65	69	68
United States						
Cattle	2,772.6	2,847.1	3,526,020	3,553,969	1,276	1,253
Calves	68.0	68.5	18,899	18,659	281	275
Hogs	9,436.7	9,054.1	2,565,380	2,466,226	272	273
Sheep & lambs	228.9	190.7	30,801	25,972	135	136

[1] Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter). [2] Data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations.
[3] Represents zero.